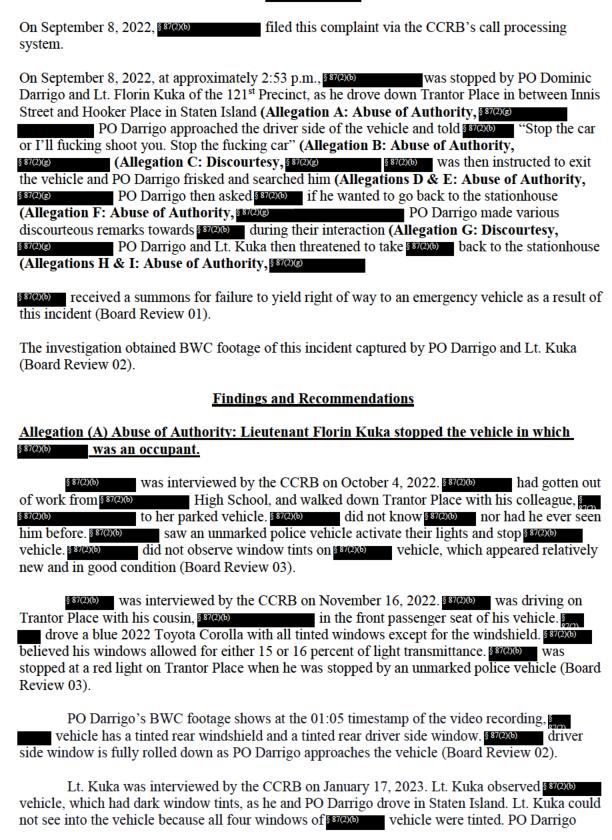
## CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:		Force	$\checkmark$	Discourt.	U.S.
Annette Rodriguez		Squad #08	202205991		Abuse		O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:			18 N	lo. SC	DL	Precinct:
Thursday, 09/08/2022 2:53 PM		Trantor Place in betwee Hooker Place	en Innis Street and		3/8	8/2024	1	121
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:		Date/Tim	e Rece	ived at CCI	UB
Thu, 09/08/2022 3:15 PM		CCRB	Call Processing System		Thu, 09/0	8/2022	2 3:15 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ss					
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ss					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. LT Florin Kuka	00000	936047	121 PCT					
2. PO Dominic Darrigo	06831	965019	121 PCT					
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inv	estiga	tor Recon	ımendation
A . LT Florin Kuka	Abuse: Lieutenant Florin Kuka stopped the vehicle in which was an occupant.							
B . PO Dominic Darrigo	Abuse: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo threatened with the use of force.							
C . PO Dominic Darrigo	Discourtesy: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(6)							
D . PO Dominic Darrigo	Abuse: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo frisked \$87(2)(0)							
E . PO Dominic Darrigo	Abuse: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo searched [887(2)]							
F . PO Dominic Darrigo	Abuse: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo threatened to arrest							
G . PO Dominic Darrigo	Discourtesy: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(6)							
H . PO Dominic Darrigo	Abuse: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo threatened to arrest							
I . LT Florin Kuka	Abuse: L	ieutenant Florin Kuka tl	nreatened to arrest §	7(2)(t	)			

## Case Summary



activated their police vehicle's lights and sirens to stop for his window tints. (Board Review 05).

PO Darrigo was interviewed by the CCRB on December 21, 2022. PO Darrigo observed vehicle which had rear passenger window tints going northbound at the stop sign on Hooker Place and Trantor Place. PO Darrigo, who was headed southbound on Trantor Place, performed a U-turn, and got behind vehicle to perform a stop for the tinted windows (Board Review 04).

New York Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 375 12-a.(b)(2) states, "No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway, road or street: the sidewings or side windows of which on either side forward of or adjacent to the operator's seat are composed of, covered by or treated with any material which has a light transmittance of less than seventy percent" (Board Review 06).

It is undisputed that \$570,00 vehicle had tinted windows. \$570,00 acknowledged that his window tints allowed for a light transmittance percentage of either 15 or 16 percent. §87(2)(a) Allegation (B) Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo threatened with the use of force. Allegation (C) Discourtesy: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo spoke discourteously to stated that the officers indicated to \$87(2)(0) that he was being pulled over through the activation of their lights but not their sirens. Traffic was at a standstill as it was a red light. § \$7(2)(b) vehicle was to the right of § \$7(2)(b) vehicle. Once the light turned green, attempted to pull over into an empty parking spot in front of \$87(2)(6) PO Darrigo ran to \$87(2)(0) vehicle and stated, "If you don't get out of the car right now, I am going to shoot you." \$87(2)(6) vehicle was not moving when PO Darrigo approached \$87(2)(6) vehicle (Board Review 03). stated that while he was driving, an unmarked police vehicle activated their sirens briefly, making a "whoop" sound and a vehicle behind vehicle moved out of the officers' way. The officers then activated their sirens again and assumed that the officers wanted him to allow them to pass. \$87(2)(6) tried to move into an empty parking spot on the left side of the street. \$87(2)(6) turned towards the empty parking spot when he noticed, out of his rear-view mirror, that PO Darrigo and Lt. Kuka were running towards his vehicle. §\$7(0)(6) then came to a complete stop. PO Darrigo ran to stop window, grabbed his door, and stated, "Stop before I fucking shoot you." PO Darrigo then grabbed \$87000 steering wheel and removed his keys from the ignition. STOD did not have any type of weapons or drugs in his vehicle, nor did he believe that he had given the officers any reason to fear for their safety (Board Review 07).

PO Darrigo's BWC footage shows at the 00:16 timestamp of the video recording, PO Darrigo indicates for to pull over. At 1:00, PO Darrigo runs to vehicle, which is stopped in the street, in front of his vehicle, angled towards an empty parking spot on the left side of the street. There is a parked vehicle in front of the empty parking spot and vehicle is parked behind the empty parking spot. At 1:06, PO Darrigo approaches driver side window and states, "Stop the car or I'll fucking shoot you. Stop the fucking car." front passenger side door is to the left of PO Darrigo. At 1:12, PO Darrigo opens

driver side door and instructs him to put it in "drive." saxs what he is talking about as PO Darrigo grabs his left arm and repeatedly instructs him to exit the vehicle. At 1:15, asks PO Darrigo what he is talking about and PO Darrigo states, "Get out of the fucking car" (Board Review 02).

PO Darrigo believed that \$5000 was attempting to evade the officers because \$5000 pulled over approximately one minute after PO Darrigo activated his lights and sirens, signaled with his right hand, and beeped at him. PO Darrigo had pursued \$87(2)(6) from the intersection of Hooker Place and Trantor Place. As PO Darrigo approached vehicle, he believed that would drive into him because he had not initially stopped when requested to do so. There was no other reason for him to think this would occur. Additionally, PO Darrigo believed he could have been dragged because his hand was on the door handle and his foot could have been run over had kept driving. PO Darrigo did not recall if \$87(2)(6) vehicle was moving when he first grabbed the door handle. PO Darrigo said he was "not proud" of saying, "stop or I'll shoot," to He believed 3000 to be dangerous though because he did not immediately pull over and it appeared to him as though \$87(2)(b) could still evade them by going into the open parking space to cut through traffic. When asked if there was any specific indication that story tried to evade them, PO Darrigo responded that it was the "sequence of events" and the manner in which \$87(3)(6) pulled into the open space. §87(2)(b) vehicle was still in drive when he approached his car. PO Darrigo believed that \$87(2)(a) was unable to evade the officers however because there was a parked car in front of the open space \$87(2)(6) pulled into that he did not think \$87(2)(6) had seen. There was no other reason as to why PO Darrigo believed \$87(2)(6) to be dangerous. PO Darrigo did not observe a weapon or a bulge on \$87(2)(6) when he approached his vehicle.

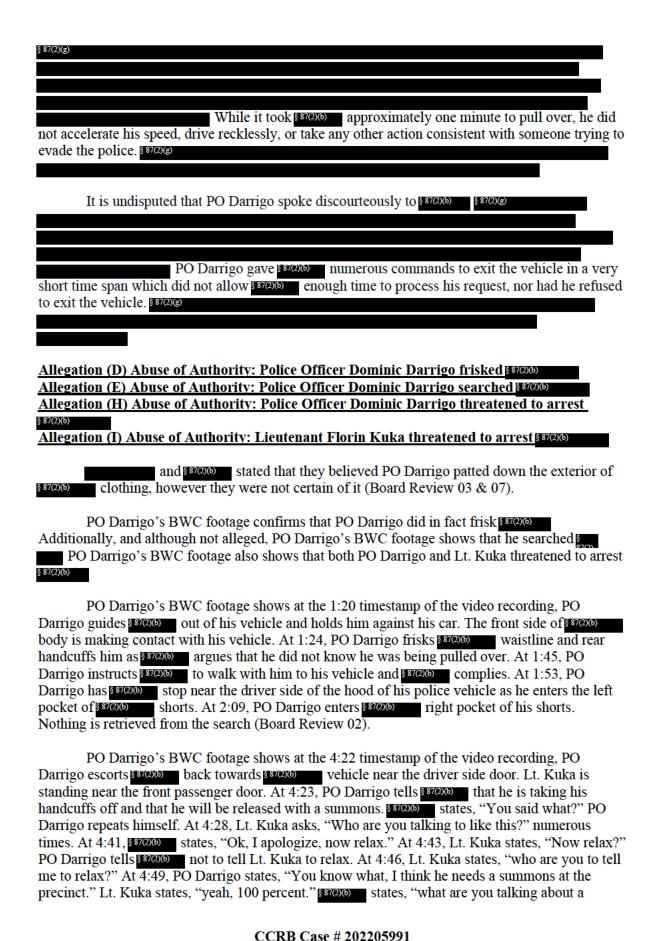
PO Darrigo did not initially recall if he used profanity towards PO Darrigo was presented with his above-cited BWC footage during his CCRB interview. After watching the footage, PO Darrigo said he used profanity because he was "very scared to get injured, run over, or die." PO Darrigo added that it was a "very high tense situation" and he even messed up his own words by saying "put it in drive," rather than "in park." There was no other reason as to why PO Darrigo used profanity (Board Review 04).

According to NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01, an officer may use force when it is reasonable to ensure the safety of a member of service or a third person, or otherwise protect life, or when it is reasonable to place a person in custody or to prevent escape from custody. Any application or use of force must be reasonable under the circumstances (Board Review 08).

NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 200-02 states that the Department is committed to accomplishing its mission of protecting the lives and property of all citizens of New York City by treating every citizen with respect and dignity while efficiently rendering police services with courtesy and civility (Board Review 09).

Google Map satellite images reveal that the distance between Hooker Place and the approximate location of the vehicle stop was approximately 350 to 400 feet, less than one tenth of a mile (Board Review 17).

PO Darrigo's BWC footage shows that pulled over within one minute from when he was first instructed to do so and less than one tenth of a mile from where the officers first signaled for him to pull over. Although vehicle was angled left, towards an empty parking spot, it was not moving when PO Darrigo approached the vehicle.



summons bro?" At 4:51, PO Darrigo states, "yeah because he doesn't even have ID on him." yells that he told him it was in his bag (Board Review 02).

Lt. Kuka's BWC footage shows at the 4:20 timestamp of the video recording, PO Darrigo tells that he is taking his handcuffs off and releasing him with a summons. states, "You said what?" PO Darrigo begins to repeat himself when Lt. Kuka interrupts him and tells PO Darrigo, "You know what? Don't take them off yet." Lt. Kuka then asks "Who are you talking to like this?" numerous times (Board Review 02).

PO Darrigo stated that was considered under arrest for fleeing from the police. could also have been arrested for Obstruction of Governmental Administration for his failure to stop. PO Darrigo did not ask for his consent to search or frisk him. PO Darrigo searched and frisked because he believed he would be arrested, though was not ultimately arrested.

PO Darrigo did not recall if he suggested that receive a summons at the stationhouse. PO Darrigo was presented with his above-cited BWC footage. When asked during his interview what changed that would have required to go to the stationhouse instead of being released with a summons, PO Darrigo responded that he did not recall any specific reason. PO Darrigo explained that was beginning to get "verbally combative" but that his statement made calm down and stopped the situation from escalating. was not taken to the stationhouse and PO Darrigo "cut him a break" by issuing him with a summons for failure to yield for an emergency vehicle (Board Review 04).

was searched. Lt. Kuka did not recall if he instructed PO Darrigo to search or frisk strong was not considered under arrest but could have been arrested for Penal Law Section 270.25 (fleeing from the police), obstruction of governmental administration, and for tinted windows. Lt. Kuka stated that it was suggested that strong receive a summons back at the precinct because was "uncooperative" and "agitated." Lt. Kuka was presented with his above-cited BWC footage during his CCRB interview. Lt. Kuka instructed PO Darrigo not to remove seemed "agitated" as he told Lt. Kuka to relax and called him "bro." Lt. Kuka stated that strong would have been taken to the precinct to receive the summons as a tool to get strong to calm down and to gain more control. There was no other reason as to why strong needed to go back to the stationhouse. Lt. Kuka had a "change of heart" and used his discretion to issue strong a summons at the location rather than at the stationhouse (Board Review 05).

NY CLS Penal Section 270.25 states that a person is guilty of unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle in the third degree when, knowing that he or she has been directed to stop his or her motor vehicle by a uniformed police officer or marked police vehicle by the activation of either the lights or the lights and siren of such vehicle, he or she thereafter attempts to flee such officer or such vehicle by driving at speeds which equal or exceed twenty-five miles per hour above the speed limit or engaging in reckless driving (Board Review 10).

NY CLS Penal Section 195.05 states that a person is guilty of obstructing governmental administration when he intentionally obstructs, impairs or perverts the administration of law or other governmental function or prevents or attempts to prevent a public servant from performing an official function, by means of intimidation, physical force or interference, or by means of any independently unlawful act, or by means of interfering (Board Review 11).

However, according to <u>People v. Tillman</u>, 184 Misc. 2d 20, fleeing a police officer conducting an investigation, standing alone, does not constitute "physical" interference with the investigation. Flight is not conduct that constitutes the crime of obstructing governmental administration (Board Review 12).

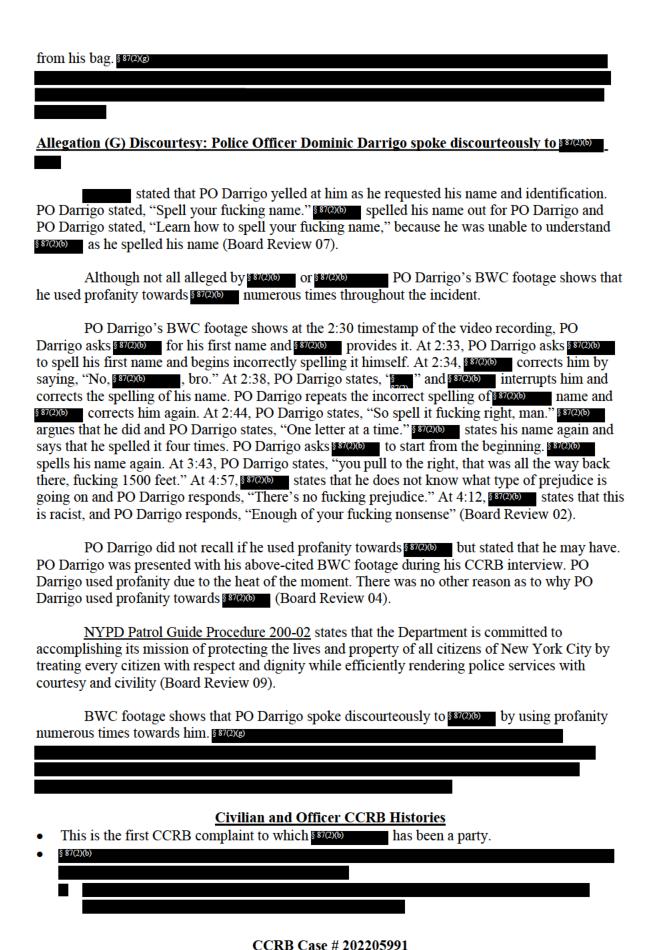
§ 87(2)(g)
Both Lt. Kuka and PO Darrigo acknowledged that they suggested that
Allegation (F) Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Dominic Darrigo threatened to arrest
Although not alleged PO Darrigo's RWC footage shows that he threatened to arrest

PO Darrigo's BWC footage shows at the 2:07 timestamp of the video recording, PO Darrigo asks states that he just lost his wallet but that he has identification in his bag. At 2:23, PO Darrigo asks states that he just lost his wallet but that he repeats that he has his identification in his bag. PO Darrigo requests states that he has his identification in his bag. PO Darrigo requests states that his identification is in his bag and tells PO Darrigo to go get it. At 2:28, PO Darrigo asks states that he does not want to before providing his name (Board Review 02).

PO Darrigo stated that he asked (1970) for his name and identification. (1970) informed him that his identification was in his bag. (1970) then verbally provided his name to PO Darrigo. PO Darrigo explained to (1970) that he could be arrested near the end of the encounter but did not recall what specifically he told (1970) PO Darrigo was presented with his above-cited BWC footage during his CCRB interview. PO Darrigo stated that (1970) could have been removed to the precinct if he did not have identification and could have been arrested for Obstruction of Governmental Administration. PO Darrigo had not verified if (1970) did in fact have identification in his bag (Board Review 04).

NY CLS Penal Section 195.05 states that a person is guilty of obstructing governmental administration when he intentionally obstructs, impairs or perverts the administration of law or other governmental function or prevents or attempts to prevent a public servant from performing an official function, by means of intimidation, physical force or interference, or by means of any independently unlawful act, or by means of interfering (Board Review 11).

PO Darrigo requested that verbally provide his name, however, refused to provide his name after multiple requests and insisted that PO Darrigo retrieve his identification



- PO Darrigo has been a member of service for five years and has been a subject in five additional CCRB complaints and 10 additional allegations, none of which were substantiated.
- Lt. Kuka has been a member of service for 18 years and has been a subject in six additional CCRB complaints and 14 additional allegations, none of which were substantiated.

## Mediation, Civil, and Criminal Histories

- This complaint was not suitable for mediation.
- As of January 27, 2023, the New York City Office of the Comptroller has no record of a Notice of Claim being filed in regard to this incident (Board Review 14).

Squad: 8			
Investigator: _	Annette Rodriguez Signature	Inv. Annette Rodriguez Print Title & Name	02/02/2023 Date
Squad Leader: <u>I</u>	Ethan De Angelo Signature	IM Ethan De Angelo Print Title & Name	2/2/2023 Date
Reviewer: _	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date